The Valley Patriot

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July, 2022
Volume 19, Issue 7
Edition #225

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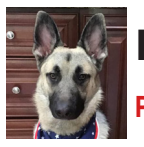

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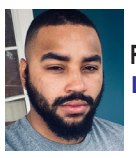

Santiago Reyes-Cruz Lawrence PAGE 13

Valley Patriot of the Month

Dracut's New VSO; US Army Veteran David Campisano

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Dracut's newly hired, Veterans Services Officer, David Campisano joined the US Army in 2001, serving in light infantry units until 2016. David trained as an Infantryman, military occupational specialty IIB. He also qualified as an Army Ranger in 2009. Ranger training is voluntary and is one of the most rigorous military training courses in the world. A notable exception to volunteering for Ranger School, from July of 1967 to June of 1972, all Regular Army Officers were required to attend the Ranger course. Dave deployed to Iraq, with the Second Battalion of the 14th Infantry Regiment, known as the Golden Dragons. The 14th was part of the 10th Mountain Division.

The US Army's 14th Infantry Regiment, dates to the American Civil War, seeing action at Antietam, Gettysburg, and Cold Harbor. Immediately after the Civil War, the unit served in the Indian Wars, in Wyoming and Arizona. The 14th Infantry deployed in the Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, and the Philippine Insurrection. Today, the 14th Infantry is part of the 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum, New York.

David deployed with the 14th Infantry Regiment, to Iraq, serving in as a Reconnaissance Scout. After his service in the Middle East, David was injured while training stateside to qualify as a Green Beret. He later served with the legendary 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. David was on the US Army, "All Army Triathlon Team" during the spring and summer of 2008

After leaving the US Army, Dave majored in Finance at Suffolk University, where he also ran Cross Country. At graduation he received the Wealth Management Leadership Award from Suffolk University. He worked for several years in the financial planning industry, including stints at Santander Bank, Merrill Lynch, and Northwestern Mutual.

David and his fiancé, Stacey Coyne, were concerned over the twenty-two suicides a day among Veterans, so they founded 22Mohawks. Stacey, who is the Chief Executive Officer, along with David, spend most of their free time building and implementing their programs and services. They currently have six people working for the non-profit, three of which are military veterans. 22Mohawks core service is providing Veterans with emotional support dogs and lifetime life skills support training

at no cost to the veteran. 22Mohawks also offers opportunities to skydive, a weeklong static line parachuting training program in Dunnellon, FL and NASCAR race car driving. They also provide many other professional and personal development programs. 22Mohawks is offering free financial planning workshops for Veterans. They are having a Golf Tournament to raise funds to help them support Veterans on Monday August 15, 2022, at Brook Meadow Country Club in Canton, Massachusetts.

Director of Networking for 22 Mohawks is Ayman Kafel. He is an Army Veteran who was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. He became a police officer in 2007 after 8

HERO: PAGE 20

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Democrat Officials Fail Their Voters on Abortion "Rights"

Regardless of where you stand on the recent Supreme Court Decision (Dobbs) declaring that abortion is not a constitutional right; you have to admit the Democratic Party in this country has a lot of explaining to do.

For decades they have promised their voters that they would protect abortion rights and "make sure Roe v. Wade is never overturned,. That is, as long as you donate LOTS of money to them every year and make sure they hold power in Washington.

Like dutiful little soldiers, the base of the Democratic Party who favor abortion whipped out their checkbooks, attended Democrat campaign rallies, gathered signatures for Democratic Party candidates and lugged their families to the voting booths to make sure abortion was protected by the Democrats.

But the Democrats failed.

They failed to stop Donald Trump from getting elected. They failed to impeach him and remove him from office. They failed to codify Roe v. Wade into federal law, even though they had both houses of congress and the presidency multiple times in the last forty years.

Some of our Democrat readers reached out to us just after Roe v. Wade was overturned. They were furious. But they weren't furious at the Supreme Court, they were furious at the Democratic Party.

What angered these Democrats most was that the Democratic National Committee sent out fundraising letters the day after Roe v. Wade was overturned, promising to protect abortion.

"First it's 'give us money and we will protect Roe', now it's 'give us money because you don't have Roe to protect you anymore?' I will never give Democrats another penny. Their promises mean nothing, their words mean nothing," one woman said.

Republicans may have their own internal problems, but if this sentiment takes hold nationally, the Democratic Party is going to the way of the Whig Party. What Whig party you ask?

Exactly. ◊

A Tribute to Izzy

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

This month I would like to take a break from talking about TV to talk about something more personal.

On June 7, 2022, my father-in-law, Isidore Trovato passed away at the age of 87, after a brave fight with cancer.

Many of you reading this article may have known Izzy, and even if you didn't know him, you may have spoken with him at one time or another. He spoke with many people over the years.

Whether it be at Heav'nly Donuts, the Nevins Library, Market Basket, or a local restaurant, you could always find Izzy engaging in a conversation with someone. Sometimes with a person he had known for many years, sometimes with a person he had just met. But regardless of their relationship, the conversation was always the same to Izzy. He spoke to everyone he met in the same way. He was always genuinely interested in what you had to say, and what your story was. By the end of the conversation, he would know where you grew up, where you went to school, and maybe even the names of members of your family. It was touching to read the condolences sent along from many of these people who, although they barely knew him, he left an impact on just the same.

He was born in Lawrence to Salvatore and Maria (Finocchiaro) Trovato, where he was raised with siblings Mario, Agnes, and Bertha. Izzy went on to graduate from Central Catholic in 1952, and then received his B.S. in Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1956, and his M.S. degree from Purdue University.

As a life-long resident of the Valley, Izzy and his wife Marion owned and operated Berkeley Pharmacy in Lawrence for 20 years from 1968 to 1988. In that time, Izzy became a fixture in the community. "Izzy the Pharmacist" was always there to help anyone that came into the store, to provide a nice conversation, a listening ear, and some encouraging words to those he spoke to.

But he would tell you that his proudest accomplishment, by far, was the family he raised along with his beloved wife of 57 years, Marion (Khoury) Trovato. Together they had 6 beautiful children. Daughters Gina Trovato, Susan Verrette, Jo-Ann Cushing, Jennifer Burdick, Maria Bonanno, and his only son James Trovato. He also had thirteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. All of them, including myself and his other sons and daughters in-law, felt the impact of his life and are feeling the impact of his passing. You only needed to spend a few minutes at any family gathering to feel the love and respect that Izzy received from his family.

For me, I joined the family in 1995 when I married Jo-Ann. I felt welcome from the moment I met Izzy and Marion. In 2002, when my sons were 4 and 6, my father died suddenly at the age of 68. It impacted our family tremendously. During that time, Izzy was a comforting presence in my life and has been ever since. He went out of his way to show his love and support through those difficult times. He was also a wonderful grandfather to our sons Billy and Sean. Always attending their baseball and basketball games and various life events over the years. But more importantly, being a role model, a solid and constant presence in their lives. Someone they could spend time with and share their experiences.

We will all miss the time we spent together. We will miss him stopping by to see how we were doing. We will miss the conversations. I will miss the texts from him asking me how work was, or what I thought of the latest developments with the Red Sox. He was always checking in to see how my mom and sister were doing too. When my mom had some recent health issues, he checked in every day to see how she was progressing. It's the type of person he was. He cared.

Although we will miss him immensely, and the void will never be filled. The pain of his loss will ease over time but will never fully dissipate. We are sad that he is no longer here, but we are so glad that we have the memories of the times we spent together, and the lasting impact and influence he had on all of us.

I'm sure, right now, he is having many wonderful conversations with his friends and family that he has been reunited with. They have a lot to catch up on. For Izzy, that's heaven.

Rest in Peace, Izzy. You were truly one of a kind.

If you knew Izzy, and would like to share some stories, thoughts, or condolences, I would love to hear from you. You can reach out to me at bcush1@comcast.net.

Donations can be made in Izzy's name to Central Catholic High School, 300 Hampshire St., Lawrence, MA 01841. To make a donation contact David Erwin at derwin@centralcatholic.net. ◊

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., PO Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845.

Letters to the editor, columns and op/eds can be submitted to **valleypatriot@aol**.com. The Valley Patriot is not responsible for the opinions expressed in submitted letters or columns. It is the policy of The Valley Patriot not to edit or exclude submitted material based on content.

PHONE: *(978) 771-4091*
www.valleypatriot.com

News tips: Send anonymous news-tips to valleypatriot@aol.com. We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

President/Publisher: Tom Duggan, Jr.
SALES: (978) 771-4091

Corrections: Please contact the editors at ***valleypatriot@aol.com***

The Valley Patriot can be found in more than 800 locations in 48 communities in Massachusetts and NH.

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The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, MA

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COPS ENFORCE THE LAWS THEY DON'T MAKE THEM

Recently the state legislature passed a law allowing illegal alients the beneifit of getting drivers licenses. Every single legilator I talked to about their vote gave me the same memorized answer as to why they voted yes, despite promising to vote NO. "Well, Tom, the police chiefs and sherrifs all testified that they want this," each of them said alomst word for word. For those of you who don't know how this kind of political game works, it goes like this. Police chiefs serve at the whim of their local mayors. Almost every local mayor in Massachusetts is a democrat who supports licenses for illegal aliens. So, when democrats want to do something they know the public is against, they parade police chiefs out in public to tesify in a scripted dog and pony show so they can hide behind them. It's also worth noting that police officers are supposed to enforce the laws, not make them. If most cops had their way they would be able to search and seize your property without a warrent. They would sieze your guns and they be able to compel you to make statements instead of giving you the right to remain silent. THIS is why cops are paid to enforce laws and not make laws.

THE WILLIE LANTIGUA FACTOR

Willie Lantigua could be back. He is running for state representative in the newly carved district including Lawrence and Methuen. Most insiders say it will never happen, but anyone who knows Lantigua knows that when you count him out, that's when he is most dangerous. Lantigua is running against Lawrence City Councilor Estela Reyes and Methuen councilor Jim McCarty. Some say that if Langigua takes enough votes in Lawrence he could be the spoiler for Estela Reyes, propelling McCarty to the top of that race.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

You don't see too many Democrats in Massachusetts expressing patriotism like this, but Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena (who was born in the Dominican Republic) surprised the audience at the 4th of July Fireworks by grabbing an American flag and waving it to the crowd.

COUNCILOR SIMARD COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

With Willie Lantigua in the state rep race between Estela Reyes and a Methuen City Councilor man are worried that Lantugia could take enough votes away from Reyes and propel the Methuen councilor into the winning spot. But hold that thought a minute. Estella Reyes seems to have a ringer in this race. Methuen Councilor Mike Simard is endorsing Reyes. If Simard takes Reyes door to door in Methuen and appears with her a local elderly housing units, he very well could be the one thing that propels Reyes into the state rep. seat. He's goinng to have work hard though, he is campaigning against one of his colleagues on the council who has a whole lot of money to spend on this election.

VASQUE ENDORSES PAUL TUCKER

It's not often you see Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque getting involved in politics, but Vasque broke with tradition last week when he not only endorsed Estela Reyes for State Rep. but Paul Tucker for Essex County District Attorney. Tucker is a former police chief in Salem, MA, and is running against a DEFENSE ATTORNEY. Which was all I needed to hear. What's more, Tucker will be appearing on the Paying Attention Podcast this month to answer questions about how he would prosecute crime in Essex County, would he release booking photos (which the current DA refuses to do) and what will he do about people who file false police reports, or restaining orders? We asked Jon Blodgett both those questions 20 years ago when he first ran and he never kept his promises.

OUR LESBIAN WRITER

Oh, what can I say about our favorite lesbian writer Dani Langevin. She sure is controversial. I must get at least a dozen comments and few dozen emails every month from people asking me why the Valley Patriot supports her anti-American views. And we dont, of course. I don't publish this newspaper to promote my opinions or the opinions of my editorial board. I publish this paper to provide a platform for people with different views to share those views with hour readers. So, just because Langevin is angry and hateful towards anyone who doesn't agree with her, that doesn't mean we support those views jus because we publish them.

Quite frankly I find her views to be hateful, unamerican, authoritarian, and intolerant, all the while mouthing platitudes about "tolerance and inclusion". Just read her column this month on page 22. She says exactly what she thinks of people who are not like her. She tells you exactly what she thinks about this country. She spells out her contempt for anyone not on board with every perverted sexual fad that comes down the pike. But, you see, I would prefer to publish every vile word she writes so that others can see what hateful intolerance looks like, and who it is spewing such hate in our community. THAT is what free speech is all about. Not silencing people who disagree. Now, I'm sure if she had her way there would be no Valley Patriot because we dare to promote ideas she wants to silence. But, we are better than that. We believe in free speech, even for those who don't. That is what the Valley Patirot is all about. Read her column to see what SHE is all about. And if you have a complaint, find her on Facebook and tell her. Stop complaining to me.

HIGHLAND PARK SHOOTING

This year during a 4th of July celebration in Highland Park, Illinois a mass shooter randomly fired and

NEXT PAGE

WINSTON SAYS!

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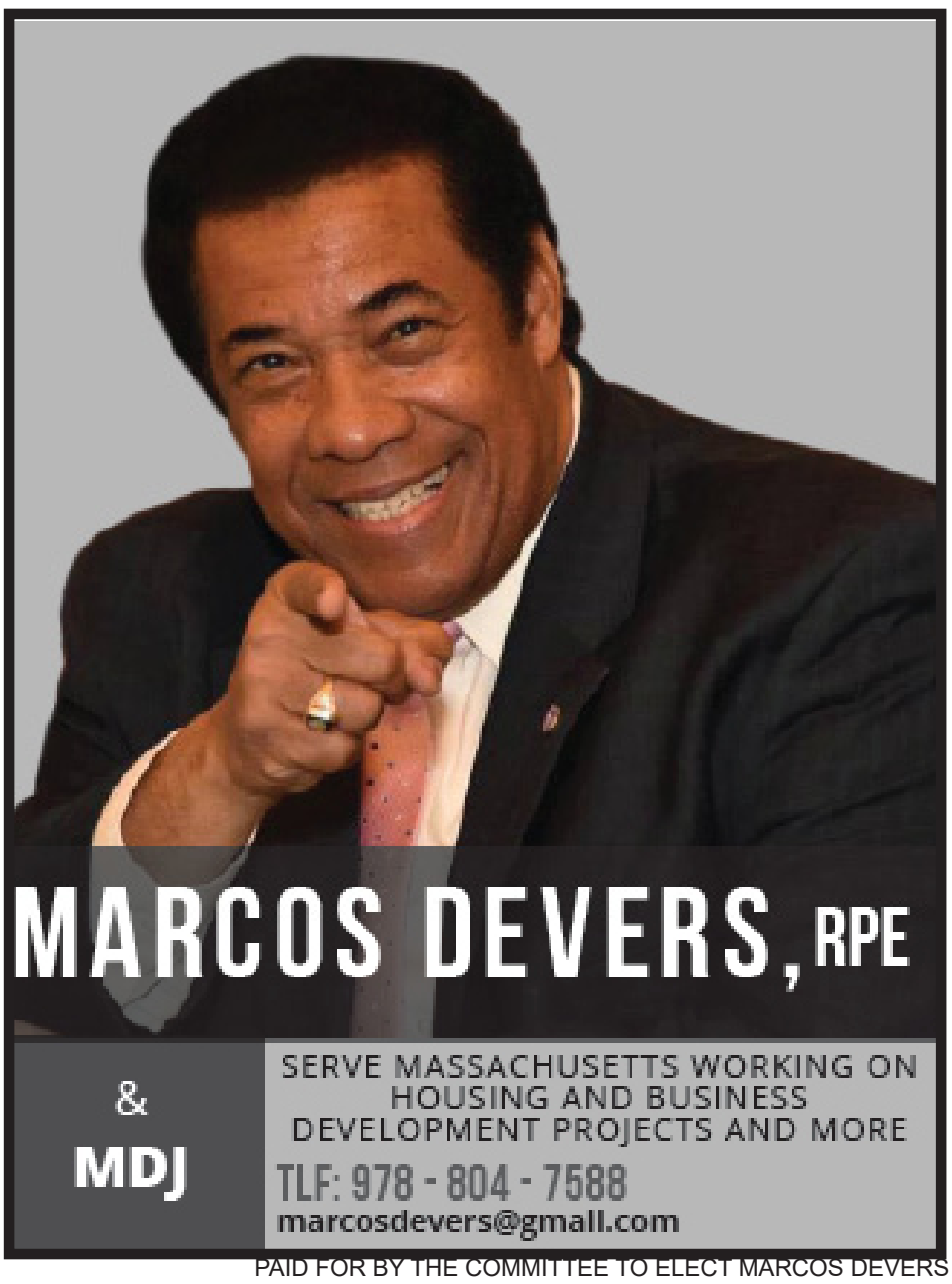

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killed seven people, injuring more than a dozen. Before the bodies were even buried, leftist politicians screeched on cable news demanding a "ban on assault weapons!" and "institute red flag laws" and "pass universal background checks!" They say this as an automatic response because it generated media coverage and it services the anti-gun agenda of the democrat party in D.C.

But wait a second. Illinois has universal background checks. They have already banned what they call "assault weapons" (even though they have yet to define it) and they already have red flag laws. So what are these politicians crying about? Why are the corporate media types screaming about these three issues when they are standing on the scene of a shooting that took place despite those laws already being in place?

Even CNN's Anderson Cooper asked out loud in a rare moment of clarity 'if all these laws didn't stop the Highland Park shooter, what will?'

The answer is NOTHING. There is no law, no political philosophy, and no social mechanism that can make a person not commit violence if they are determined to do so. Mass murderer Jim Jones used Kool-Aid, Timothy McVeigh used fertilizer, the 911 hijackers used box cutters. The fact is, politicians may think they are gods but they are not. All the political grandstanding on the graves of innocent people to push a gun grabbing agenda will only yield more violence, not less. And they know that. That is their goal. Divide and conquer. Disarm the masses, get everyone fighting against each other, and nobody will notice how badly they are treating us .... as they simultaneously raid the national treasury and dole it out to friends and family.

MASS TEACHERS ASSOC. ENDORSES DIANA DIZOGLIO STATE AUDITOR

The 115,000-member Massachusetts Teachers Association has endorsed Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) for State Auditor, a sign of strength and grassroots support for a candidate vowing to represent the people's interest on Beacon Hill.

DiZoglio was raised by a single mother and has felt the transformative effect of education in her own life: After she graduated from Methuen High School, a teacher helped her transfer from Middlesex Community College to Wellesley College.

That laid the foundation for her entry into public service, from working at local community centers to serving in the Massachusetts State House and Senate.

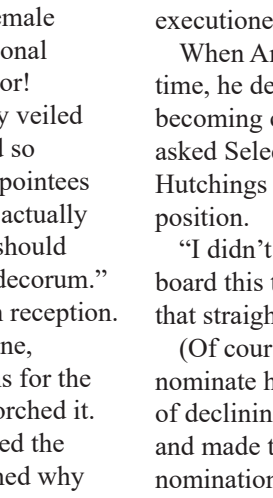
"Diana DiZoglio is running on a platform of increasing transparency in state government, and ensuring that there is access to services for those who need them and to state contracts for those able to fulfill them," said the MTA. "She will fight for all Massachusetts residents to receive fair treatment and will fight for equity."

EYE ON DRACUT

Tony Archinski Should Police His Own Ironic Conduct

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Try not to let Selectman Tony Archinski's failed political stunt ruin your faith in local government. In epic, progressive fashion, the chairman of the Dracut Democrat Town Committee tried to pull a fast one. His so-called code of conduct was a bad, political idea that would have polluted town government with more personal politics, new political penalties, and ongoing punitive payback—and it died the fast death it deserved.



In his aspirational manifesto, Archinski said the purpose of the code was to provide "a centralized standard of conduct" for selectmen and their appointees. In the real world, it would have covered and controlled all their actions and communications, whether spoken or written, including social media posts and emails. Archinski also took it upon himself to include a "Penalties" section that would have allowed for board members to render punishment on each other and their appointees for alleged violations.

Basically, this was Archinski's sad attempt to shred the First Amendment, stifle robust debate and silence his political opponents. It was a move right out of the leftist playbook. And it backfired, bigtime.

Irony: When the board majority let him know why they planned to vote it down, Archinski bullied two of his female colleagues about their professional careers. Talk about bad behavior!

Archinski unveiled his thinly veiled proposal in May, saying he did so because the board and their appointees "could use a reminder that we actually work for the public" and "we should always maintain professional decorum." At that time, it got a lukewarm reception.

At the board's meeting in June, Archinski reiterated his reasons for the proposal. Selectmen quickly torched it.

Selectman Joe DiRocco called the timing suspicious and questioned why Archinski waited to bring it forward nine years after joining the board.

"He waited to bring this forward at the meeting after he didn't get elected chair," DiRocco said. "I don't judge members on this board, nor do I expect members on this board to judge me. We're judged every day from the voters who elected us."

DiRocco's comments apparently triggered Archinski who tried to respond immediately. Chairman Alison Genest (my wife) reminded Archinski that not all board members had spoken once on the matter, and he could speak a second time after that happened.

Irony: Archinski wants a new code of conduct but didn't want to follow the existing Roberts Rules of Order when it comes to discussing his own agenda item. Talk about being above the rules!

Selectman Jennifer Kopcinski didn't see the need, pointing out that board members must follow the state's ethics laws and other rules.

"I don't disagree with anything in here in principle, but I just don't think we need another piece of paper that governs us when we're already covered by other documents," she said.

Genest called it unnecessary, questioning the timing and the appropriateness of board members issuing penalties to each other for alleged violations.

"I am going to vote against this because I see it as a solution looking for a problem," she said. "And as far as the penalties section goes, we were not elected to play judge, jury and executioner on our colleagues."

When Archinski spoke a second time, he denied being "mad" about not becoming chairman and said he had asked Selectman Heather Santiago-Hutchings not to nominate him for the position.

"I didn't want to be the chairman of the board this time around, so I'd like to get that straight," Archinski said.

(Of course, Santiago-Hutchings did nominate him. At that time, instead of declining, Archinski said nothing and made the board vote down his nomination before the majority took a subsequent vote re-electing Genest as chairman.)

ARCHINSKI: PAGE 18

KEEPING PROMISES

Mayor Brian A. DePeña signs memorandum of agreement for training in Professional Technical careers for citizens in Lawrence, with the Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Profesional-INFOTEP from the Dominican Republic.

Mayor DePena Signs Agreement for Professional Technical Training

This event started with a breakfast at 8:30 am. at Ateneo Dominicano, followed by a press conference in room 307 of the mayor's office, delivery of awards and then the official signing of said memorandum, a visit to the "GLTS" Greater Lawrence Technical School, a press conference with Telemundo, lunch at Mamajuana and finally a city tour for the visitors of the delegation, which included several places such as the Public Library, Historic Buildings, the Santa María De La Asunción Church among others.

With this meeting, Mayor Brian A. DePeña demonstrates his dedication to Professional Technical training, offering more services to Lawrence residents and his support for the growth that the new times deserve. At the same time, Mayor DePeña thanks for the assistance of all the people who showed their support by their presence.

In this agreement were present Mayor Brian A. DePeña, the Director of the Center in Rep. Dom. Mr. Rafael Santos and his delegation, Deligne Asención Burgos, Minister of Public Works and Communications, Zoila Rosario President of the PRM in MA., Rafael Santos Political Scientist, writer and Journalist, Councilors of the City, Police Chief Roy Vasque, Fire Department Chief Brian Moriarty, Frank Morán and Marcos Devers, State Representatives, Enrique Camarena, Vice Consul of the Dom. Rep. in Boston, Teodoro Rosario, First Vice President of the PRM Party and other delegations. ◊

Clockwork Orange America

Ken Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Stanley Kubrick, who was considered one of the greatest directors of all-time, directed a masterpiece film on a futurist society where young thugs brazenly terrorize innocent bystanders without swift repercussions by law enforcement or judges.

It was an indictment of the criminal justice system that created a demographic group that grew immune and unafraid of weak or non-existent punishment. Even the main criminal in the movie is paraded as a celebrity because of the vigilante justice inflicted upon him. In countless examples across this incredible country, liberals are creating the same type of society and must be confronted immediately before it is too late.

Even before the mayhem, carnage and anarchy encouraged by the Leftists in 2020, many Blue State Legislatures were already laying the groundwork for a hyper-criminal fueled backlash. They implemented very questionable criminal justice reform measures that gave blanket immunity to juveniles for major crimes. Naturally, gangs took advantage of the loopholes. Notice the random incidents of violence directed by juvenile gangs around Boston and you will find the genesis of their actions in liberal laws implemented within the last three years.

Another calling card of disastrous liberal lawmaking has been the increase of the monetary threshold for shoplifting and retail crimes charged as felonies. Business owners are repeatedly victimized because only large-scale crimes are now considered serious. The same business owners are now forced to pass the costs of inventory loss to consumers, who are already burdened by massive inflationary forces. Criminals became even more outlandish by coordinating smash and grab operations. Again, they are taking advantage of loopholes and such organized crimes are currently at epidemic levels.

Bail Reform has allowed violent and dangerous criminals back onto the streets---often on the same day of arrest. Liberal District Attorneys in California are lessening charges against hardened criminals who are escalating their crimes. The Dave Chapelle incident is a prime example. Unfortunately, law enforcement has become increasingly powerless to confront the rising wave of criminal activity. Leftists in New York, Washington, Oregon and other Blue States have waged open warfare against professional and educated law enforcement agents. They have approved defunding measures (New York City). They have restricted rules of engagement and probable cause options for police car pursuits, foot chases and basic stops. Leftist lawmakers have so micromanaged police tactics as to directly endanger the lives of law enforcement every day. While major crimes are exploding in Democratically controlled cities, the murder rate of police officers rose by 59% since 2021.

Crime has gotten so bad in New York City that BLM leaders have called for better solutions, which is ironic because their policies have a direct bearing on subway attacks, shootings, hate crimes, rapes, revolving door bail hearings and open-door shoplifting.

But are we really surprised by Leftist ideas and consequences on crime? It seems that all Leftists dream about is 1,000 ways to free criminals. Border Security suddenly is an evil idea again. Driver's licenses to illegal aliens are acceptable in a criminal-centric society. There can't be monetary bail to protect innocent people from poor criminals because they languish in jail. Unarmed social workers and counselors can solve domestic calls.

What happened to the law-and-order Democrats? The Democrats who proudly imposed the death penalty, who celebrated 100,000 new police officers on the streets in 1994 due to federal monies and who used common sense to establish mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes. They have been replaced by the worst leaders imaginable. They condemn police but they themselves are shielded by a wall of taxpayer-funded security. They commit crimes, such as DUIs, but refuse to resign from office. They call police racists, even though African American, Asian and Latino brothers and sisters serve and die every day to protect a multiracial nation.

Thousands of businesses utilize E-Verify to determine immigration status, so a driver's license won't guarantee a job at most worksites anyways. And millions of people are homeless across the nation, but we will let in thousands of illegal migrants to flood the system.

Voters are starting to challenge Leftists at the ballot box. Recall petitions are enjoying success again. (San Francisco's District Attorney was recently removed by an outraged liberal voter base.) There may be a pendulum swing back to real crime prevention and real results. We are at a tipping point that may negatively affect us for decades to come. ◊

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Miguel Angel Fajardo of Lawrence Charged with Fentanyl Distribution

Nearly nine kilograms of fentanyl seized, including approximately 48,000 fentanyl pills

BOSTON – A Lawrence man has been charged for allegedly distributing counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl, made using multiple pill press machines.

Miguel Angel Fajardo, 32, was charged by an Information with one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl. Fajardo was previously arrested and charged by criminal complaint on March 25, 2022, and has remained in custody since.

According to the charging documents, law enforcement allegedly seized approximately 7.3 kilograms worth of fentanyl pills, an industrial pill press and "M" and "30" pill stamps consistent with markings on pharmaceutical-grade Oxycodone pills in Fajardo's apartment. Pill stamps are commonly used to make counterfeit pills appear to be legitimate pharmaceutical-grade pills. Also, inside Fajardo's apartment, law enforcement allegedly found approximately 1.4 kilograms of fentanyl powder, two individual finger presses, 50 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition concealed in a microwave, four kilograms of cutting agent and two air purifying respirators – which are commonly used when working with fentanyl powder. It is further alleged that investigators located two one-kilogram pill press machines and another large pill press in the landing outside the apartment.

Previously Arrested with Multiple Pill Press Machines

"The opioid crisis remains a clear and present danger to our community, claiming over two thousand lives in Massachusetts in 2021 alone," said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "Mr. Fajardo allegedly possessed a staggering quantity of fentanyl – almost nine kilograms – and a clandestine laboratory outfitted with all the tools and materials necessary to press fentanyl into counterfeit pills. By seizing nearly 48,000 such pills along with the tools we believe Mr. Fajardo used to make them, our law enforcement partners likely saved countless lives."

"Fentanyl is causing great damage to our communities," said DEA Special Agent in Charge Brian D. Boyle. "Those who distribute this lethal drug are endangering the safety of the citizens of Massachusetts. This investigation demonstrates the strength of collaborative local, county and state law enforcement efforts in Massachusetts and our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office."

The charge of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing fentanyl provides for a sentence of at least 10 years and up to life in prison, at least five years of supervised release and a fine of $10 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case. U.S. Attorney Rollins, DEA SAC Boyle and Lawrence Police Chief Roy P. Vasque made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Estes of Rollins' Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case. ◊

Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. awarded $100K Grant

Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000-$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation's $25 Million Grant Program. The Methuen-based organization was chosen from a total of 580 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive $100,000 over 4 years.

The Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. (MAN, Inc.) is a non-profit organization which operates the Lena Lahey Community Center. MAN, Inc. provides an after school homework center, Saturday movies and crafts, summer basketball league, satellite library, yoga program, karate program, and provides a safe haven for the children that reside in the Arlington Neighborhood of Methuen.

"The fact that we received the Cummings Foundation Grant is very important to our organization so that we can continue to offer a safe haven to the youth of the community with meaningful, supervised and structured programming," said Linda Soucy, Founder of MAN, Inc.

MAN, Inc. plans on utilizing this funding to continue to provide and expand our educational, cultural, and recreational programs at no cost to low-income youth and families of the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood.

The Cummings $25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We are so fortunate in greater Boston to have such effective nonprofits, plus a wealth of talented, dedicated professionals and volunteers to run them," said Cummings Foundation Executive Director, Joyce Vyriotes.

"We are indebted to them for the work they do each day to provide for basic needs, break down barriers to education and health resources, and work toward a more equitable society."

With the help of about 90 volunteers, the foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least $100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from $200,000 to $500,000 each.

"Our volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives, which is so critical to our grant selection process," said Vyriotes.

"Through this democratized approach to philanthropy, they decide more than half the grants every year." ◊

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Methuen Police Department Welcomes Seven New Officers

From left, Officer Jason Young, Officer Cameron Fountain, Officer James Smith, Officer Kayleigh Forgetta, Chief Scott J. McNamara, Officer Dannery Serrano, Officer Robert Fitzgerald, Officer Angel Mejia Jr. (Photo Courtesy Methuen Police Department). During the graduation ceremony, Methuen Officer James Smith was presented a Physical Fitness award from NECC Academy staff.

Lawrence Mayor DePena Commits $1.5M to Childcare Scholarship

In response to the great need for quality childcare in Lawrence, Mayor Brian A. DePena held a press conference last month announcing his commitment to funding $1.5 million in additional funds to help new low and moderate-income families in the community access childcare service. “This financial boost will allow some 279 families to continue receiving the service, while it would mitigate the long waiting list that makes it difficult for additional families to receive these essential benefits amid the current inflation that threatens the financial stability of many residents. The funds will continue reducing the long waiting list for childcare in Lawrence.” ◊

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House Taking Action on Big Issues: Soldiers' Home Settlement, Transportation, Mental Health

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Soldiers' Home Settlement: The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed a funding bill containing $56 million to settle the lawsuit brought forth by families of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home following the tragic COVID-19 outbreak in the spring of 2020. This funding will go directly to Veterans impacted and the families of those we lost – while it cannot undo the pain endured by so many, and is not nearly enough, it is a step toward accountability.

Comprehensive legislation to reform governance and oversight of the Soldiers' Homes is in the final stages and is expected to come for a final vote by the end of July.

Major Transportation Investments: The Massachusetts House has passed an $11 billion borrowing bill to make major investments in our transportation infrastructure. This bill includes $400 million for safety reforms within the MBTA system, in line with the recent federal investigation. It also includes $250 million to create an East-West high-speed railway – a new rail line that will have incredible benefits for our economy, job opportunities, and affordable housing by connecting the western and eastern halves of our state.

Also included in the bill is $200 million for projects to reduce transportation emissions, millions of dollars to electrify our trains, over $100 million to pave roadways, $20 million for cities and towns to create "Complete Streets" (which accommodate cars, buses, bikes, and pedestrians), and more. These investments will have a tangible impact on the transportation systems we all use every day.

Expanding Access to Mental Health Care: The Massachusetts House has passed critical legislation to broadly address mental health in our Commonwealth – a crisis that urgently demands action. One of the biggest issues is access to care – wait times for appointments are far too long, mental health providers are in short supply, and insurance coverage is often minimal.

This legislation touches upon many aspects of mental health care to improve access – it will expand school mental health services, grow our mental health workforce, reduce emergency room boarding, require health insurers to cover an annual mental health wellness exam much like a physical exam, address disparities in mental health care, and much more. This legislation is needed now more than ever, and I am grateful to the many advocates and organizations who have worked so hard to move this legislation forward!

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2676. ◊

Protecting Our Firefighters from PFAS

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

Our firefighters are among the most hardworking, selfless men and women in Massachusetts. These first responders operate under the most dangerous of conditions, risking their own lives to save others. For their dedication to our communities, we must do all we can to provide them with the supports they need to do this invaluable work.

That is why I filed legislation this session, Senate Bill 1576, An Act relative to the reduction of certain toxic chemicals in firefighters' personal protective equipment, to support and protect our firefighters in a critical area.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have for decades been used in products including Teflon, Goretex, stain-resistant carpeting, food wrappers and firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE). PFAS are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they take decades to break down in nature and can build up in the body. Studies have linked even very low levels of PFAS exposure in drinking water to significant health effects, including kidney and liver disease; immune, reproductive and developmental problems; high cholesterol; and certain cancers.

PFAS has turned up in water supplies at hundreds of sites across the country, including every county in New Hampshire. Despite the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s recommendation that people avoid these chemicals as much as possible, we still allow PFAS to be widely used, including in firefighters' PPE.

Our first responders are the backbone of our society. We must ensure they can perform their duties without being kept in the dark if harmful chemicals are present on the equipment we provide them. Firefighters already take on enough risk in the line of duty. It is critical that we educate them on these chemicals, make them aware of their presence and ultimately prohibit their use.

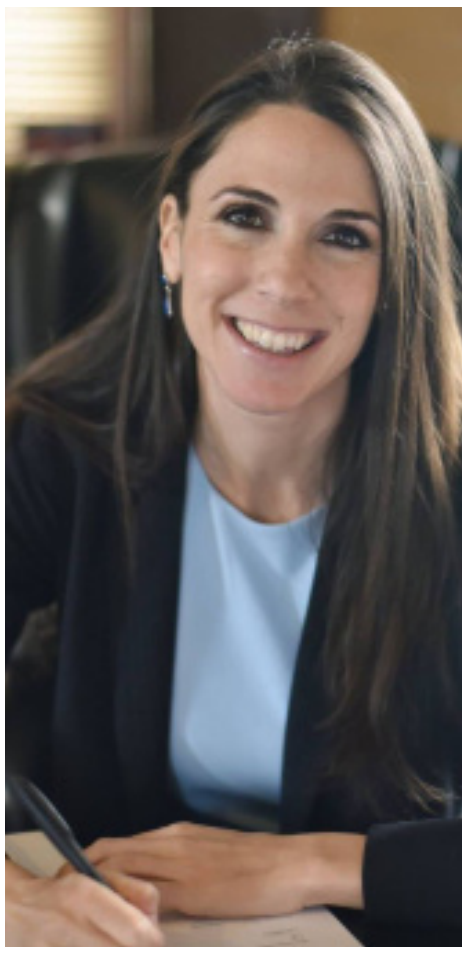
Specifically, under this legislation I have filed, manufacturers would, by January 1, 2023, be required to notify purchasers if PFAS is in the equipment of interest. As of January 1, 2025, the bill would outright ban the manufacture or sale of firefighting personal protective equipment with PFAS.

By eliminating PFAS in firefighter gear, we would not only protect the health of our first responders but also broadly reduce the use and exposure of these dangerous chemicals that impact so many in Massachusetts.

I am grateful to the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, which represents more than 12,000 firefighters across the Commonwealth, for their strong support of this legislation and hopeful we can get it to the Governor's desk for his signature as soon as possible.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service, Diana ◊



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Estela Reyes may be a Lawrence City Councilor, but she is the only one in this race who can help METHUEN get funding for police, sewer, and infrastructure projects. Estela Reyes will ensure that union jobs in Methuen and Lawrence are protected and that public projects will use union workers! I have never been happier to endorse a candidate for office than I am with Estela Reyes.

Mike Gagliardi

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

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Constituent and Community Services Above All Else

This June, State Representative Marcos Devers made a point to engage with the community.

With the start of summer weather, Semana Hispana, and a host of other events, Representative Devers was very active in Lawrence this month, even as the House continued to meet.

However, more importantly, the Representative's office was still working at full capacity on constituent and community services above all else. New unemployment cases handled by Rep. Devers' office dropped once again in June, but immigration and housing cases were still plentiful. If you or someone you know has a problem in the City of Lawrence, Representative Devers can be contacted at his email, marcos.devers@mahouse.gov

The Massachusetts House of Representatives held quite a few formal House sessions and passed a slew of important legislation in June. One of the bills passed this month was H.4879, An Act addressing barriers to care for mental health.

This bill builds upon the state Senate's Mental Health Plan, ABC 2.0, and includes provisions that will improve mental health care accessibility for all Commonwealth residents. The bill includes the implementation of the 988 mental health crisis line and expansion of the 911 line to allow for more appropriate and effective responses to mental health emergencies.

Additionally, the bill creates parity between mental and physical health care by ensuring that a licensed mental health clinician is available in all emergency departments, expanding school-based behavioral-health services, and expanding insurance coverage for mental health care. The bill passed unanimously in the House and Representative Devers was proud to vote in favor.

Another bill passed by the House this month was H.4897, An Act relative to Massachusetts' transportation resources and climate. This bill focuses on investments in roads, bridges, transit, and climate resiliency by authorizing $10.9B for projects, including $400M to address ongoing safety concerns in the MBTA and $250M for the East-West passenger rail project. Representative Devers co-sponsored an amendment to this bill that specified funding for transportation infrastructure in Lawrence and another that addressed environmental justice transit accessibility. The bill was passed unanimously.

The bulk of legislation passed by the House in formal sessions came in the last week of the month. The first bill is H.4929, An Act relative to step therapy and patient safety. This bill will limit the use of step therapy protocols, in which insurance companies refuse to pay for prescription drugs until the patient first tries cheaper, and oftentimes ineffective, alternatives. This legislation is a huge win for patients because it allows them to circumvent step therapy protocols in instances that would negatively impact their health. The bill passed the House unanimously, with Representative Devers voting in favor. The second bill, H.4930, An Act expanding protections for reproductive rights, is comprehensive legislation that protects reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

This bill expands access to emergency contraception and provides legal protections to providers, out-of-state patients, and insurers. The next bill, H.4931, An Act relative to pesticides, would monitor and reduce the use of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) to protect our state's wildlife. SGARs have an immense impact on non-targeted wildlife populations through secondary and tertiary exposure to the pesticides because the food chain is extensively contaminated; this legislation will help lower that devastating impact. The House passed this bill as well.

The House also voted again on the Work and Family Mobility Act (H.4805), this time to override Governor Baker's veto of the bill. The veto was overridden in both the House and Senate, making the bill a law.

In addition to voting on the large number of important bills that went through the House this month, Representative Devers also participated in two meetings of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and a meeting of the Joint Committee on Small Business and Community Development, of which he is a member. ◊

Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque endorses Estela Reyes for State Representative, saying she will stand with police.

Estela Reyes will Fund Police in Methuen & Lawrence

Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr.
LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

This year the race for state representative in Lawrence and Methuen will be decided in the September 6th primary - not the November election - because there are no Republicans running in this race. That means more people need to vote on the September 6th Democrat primary, instead of waiting for the November final election.

Voters in Methuen and Lawrence have a choice this year between former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua, current Methuen City Councilor Jimmy McCarty, and current Lawrence City Councilor Estela Reyes.

While many in Methuen may be tempted to vote for McCarty because he's a Methuen City Councilor, a quick look at his record on the council might make you think twice before doing that.

First, McCarty is part of the good-old-boy network in Methuen. He is backed by all the same insiders who got Methuen into the current mess we are in.

McCarty supported "defunding the police" as he gleefully voted to lay off of over 30 Methuen police officers to punish the chief of police. That vote put Methuen citizens in danger with longer response times and fewer cops to respond to each call for help from the public. It was a disgraceful display of putting politics above the safety of Methuen citizens, but McCarty didn't care because he was obsessed with revenge against certain cops within the department.

Estela Reyes not only supports police officers; she is married to one. She understands the dangers these cops deal with every day. Living in a crime filled neighborhood herself, Reyes knows how important it is to have more cops responding to crime - not less.

As a Lawrence City Councilor, she has never once voted to cut police for any reason. In fact, she voted to increase the police budget every single year she has been on the city council.

When asked her about her opponent's position on police versus her commitment to law enforcement and keeping neighborhoods safe here is what she said;

"Cutting police officers is a violation of the sacred trust every elected official has to their constituents. I would never vote to cut police funding for any reason. If that makes some people in my party unhappy that's their problem. Our police officers risk their lives every time they pull over a car or answer a call.

When the people of Methuen and Lawrence call 911, they need to know that if their life is in danger, police officers are minutes away to help. That doesn't happen when you cut 30 cops from the city budget. No matter how much you hate the chief of police, you don't take it out on the public. We have an obligation to protect people first - everything else needs to come second. If I am elected state representative on September 6th, I will be introducing bills at the state house every single year to increase funding for the Methuen Police Department. Others had their chance to do that at the local level and they purposely chose to cut cops instead of adding cops. You have my promise, your public safety funding will be my number one priority."

What's more, as a city councilor, Estela Reyes knows that there is no room for political infighting and grandstanding at public meetings.

Unlike Councilor McCarty, Reyes is a professional who has never shouted anyone down at a public meeting. She has never attacked anyone's integrity in public, either. Instead, Estela Reyes has commanded the respect of her colleagues, and treats them all with respect. The one time that a city councilor got out of control during a Lawrence City Council meeting, Estela Reyes simply picked up her things and left the room, refusing to be part of the circus.

By contrast, her opponent has egged on the incivility at Methuen City Council Meetings. He has attacked people's personal lives, questioned their integrity, and created a toxic environment on the council that gave a black eye to Methuen on multiple occasions.

Estela Reyes is a real estate agent, a homeless advocate, a mother, a wife, and a homeowner who pays taxes.

Jimmy McCarty on the other hand lives in his mom's basement, has no job, and pays no taxes. That's a fact.

Estela Reyes is running for state representative so she can increase police funding, bring in grants to help Methuen with sewer and infrastructure projects, and hold the schools accountable for educating your kids. She wants to make sure her kids live in a better community.

Jimmy McCarty is running for state representative because he needs a job.

The people of Methuen deserve more.

The people of Lawrence deserve more.

We all deserve someone who thinks of the voters first, and that person is Estela Reyes for state representative on September 6th. ◊

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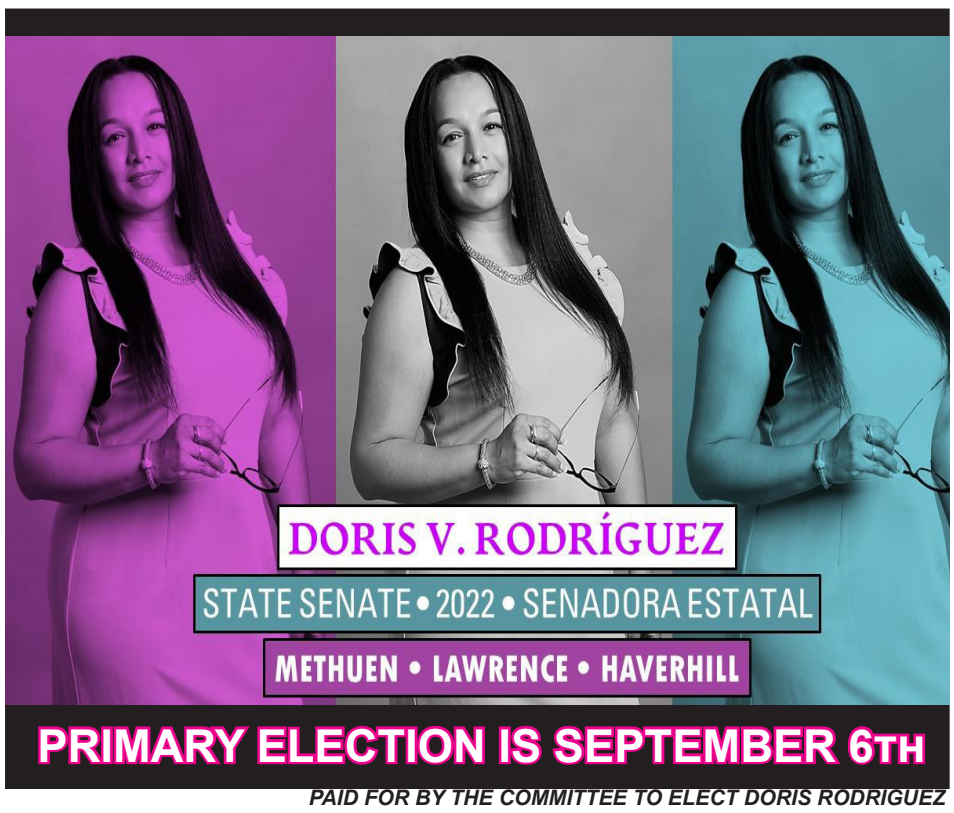

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Maudslay Arts Center Starts Summer Series with Amanda Carr, New Black Eagle Jazz Band

Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series (MAC) favorites vocalist Amanda Carr and New Black Eagle Jazz Band open the 29th season, followed by a full line-up of Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon concerts featuring something for every musical taste from Big Band to jazz, from opera to country to the Great American Songbook.

Come to Maudslay on Saturday night to hear multi-styled vocalist/pianist Amanda Carr. An international recording and performing artist, she is a two-time Boston Music Awards nominee. Carr has received critical acclaim for her fresh jazz and big band interpretations of the Great American Songbook. The Wall Street Journal hailed her, "…a true jazz singer in a time of wannabes."

The Black Eagles, as they are known to their fans, have been a fixture on the international jazz scene since 1971, bringing the sounds of traditional New Orleans Jazz to audiences all over the world.

Also, on the schedule this summer are MAC favorites The Don Campbell Band, Hillyer Festival Orchestra, guitarist Bobby Keyes, and jazz vocalist Donna Byrne. New to the line-up this season are The Deep Blue C, Alex Minasian Jazz Quartet, Mike Monaghan Jazz Quintet, and Beantown Swing Orchestra.

Whether you're sitting under the stars on a moonlit evening, or lounging on a blanket on a Sunday afternoon, the Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series provides the perfect setting for your entertainment pleasure.

"With your help we continue to make upgrades and improvements and as a result there is not a bad place to sit at Maudslay," MAC Executive Director Nicholas C. Costello said. "On the lawn, patio, or inside the concert venue, the acoustics are wonderful."

Saturday concerts begin at 7 p.m. and include: Amanda Carr on July 9, Alex Minasian Jazz Quartet on July 16, Mike Monaghan Jazz Quintet on July 23, The Don Campbell Band on July 30, and The Deep Blue C on Aug. 13.

Sunday afternoon performances begin at 2 p.m. and include: New Black Eagle Jazz Band on July 10, Hillyer Festival Orchestra on July 17, Beantown Swing Orchestra on July 24, Bobby Keyes on Aug. 7, and Donna Byrne on Aug. 14.

Maudslay Arts Center is located at 95 Curzon Mill Road, Maudslay State Park, Newburyport, MA, 01950. The concerts are held rain or shine, moving to the indoor performance hall adjacent to the patio when weather dictates.

"There's never a 'rain out' at Maudslay Arts Center," Costello said. "We just go inside." All current COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner, which can be casual or as elaborate as a gourmet meal with tablecloth and flowers, whatever suits the patron's fancy. Delicious desserts and cold beverages may be purchased during intermission, all served by dedicated MAC volunteers, who continue to make this non-profit series happen.

Saturday performances start at 7 p.m., with gates opening at 6 p.m. Patio seating (tables and chairs) is $30. Lawn seating (bring your own chairs or blankets) is $25. Children 12 and under are free.

Sunday performances start at 2 p.m. with gates opening at 1 p.m. General admission is $20 with open seating on the patio and lawn. Tables and chairs are provided on the patio. Special group rates may be arranged by calling 978-499-0050. Children 12 and under are free.

"Summer is just a brief season here in New England," Costello said, "so come out and enjoy wonderful music at affordable prices in a spectacular natural setting."

For the complete summer schedule, to purchase tickets online, or for further information about the performers, visit the MAC website at www.maudslayartscenter.org. Tickets also may be purchased at the gate (check or cash only) or by calling (978) 499-0050. There is no reserved seating. Gift certificates are available.

The series is supported by The Newburyport Bank, dedicated MAC volunteers and patrons, and the staff of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Saturday evening performances are sponsored by The Newburyport Bank. Additional support for the Hillyer Festival Orchestra concert was provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and its local chapters in Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury, Merrimac, and Salisbury. ◊

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Lowell Folk Festival 2022 Lineup

Western Swing, Polka, Memphis Swing Bands and more will perform on July 29, 30 & 31

The Lowell Folk Festival announced the latest round of talented musicians from across the country that will grace four stages during the 2022 Lowell Folk Festival. Celebrating its 35th Anniversary July 29-31, the free 2022 Lowell Folk Festival promises to continue its rich history of showcasing a diverse mix of musical styles from regions across the country. The eclectic group includes Grammy winning Polka artists, masters of Memphis Soul, and a Creole party that will have everyone dancing.

The additional artists include:

Carolyn Martin Swing Band (Fort Wayne, IN) Western Swing

From the Grand Ole Opry to southern honky-tonks to European concert halls, fans have come to know Carolyn Martin as a vocalist with the soulful elegance that is the very essence of western swing music.

Balla Kouyaté & Famoro Dioubaté (Boston) Balafon Masters

Balla Kouyaté from Mali and Famoro Dioubaté from Guinea are masters of the West African balafon, a predecessor of the vibraphone and xylophone. Each performance from the pair is a treat for audiences and artists alike, full of the thrill of the unexpected, as they explore the new heights they can reach when musical friendship, creative vision, and virtuosity meet.

Christine Tassan et les Imposteures (Quebec) Jazz Manouche and Swing

For more than 20 years, Christine Tassan has been steering her ship with boundless enthusiasm and confidence. Blessed with contagious dynamism, she is one of few female jazz Manouche guitar soloists; she stands out for her sensitive playing, quiet strength, and irresistible audacity.

Don Bryant (Memphis) Memphis Soul

Don Bryant is a legend of Memphis soul singers. His career as a singer and songwriter has spanned more than six decades and earned him five Blues Music Award nominations. Bryant is joined in Lowell by an outstanding five-piece band featuring members of the Bo-Keys, an intergenerational ensemble keeping the classic Memphis sound alive today.

Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push (Ludlow, MA) Polka

Lenny Gomulka originated the "Chicago Push" style of Polish polka, along with the legendary Eddie Blazonczyk, while he was playing in Blazonczyk's band in the 1960s and '70s. The "push" style is characterized by propulsive, bellows-shaking, accordion driven rhythm, replacing the slower more laid-back Chicago style that preceded it. In 1980, Gomulka formed his own band, naming them the Chicago Push, and they've been one of the most popular and influential polka bands in the country ever since, garnering 12 Grammy nominations and several awards along the way, including the first polka Grammy ever in 1985.

Panfilo's Güera (San Antonio, TX) Tejano Conjunto Fiddle

When Texas Folklife and the Festival of Texas Fiddling honored Belen Escobedo with the 2017 Texas Master Fiddler Award, they praised her for "single handedly keeping alive" the tradition of conjunto fiddle, "a rare and beautiful style of Mexican-American fiddling which has almost disappeared despite once being very widespread in the borderlands." Today, Belen Escobedo is the foremost practitioner of this fiddle-led art form that expresses the deep roots of Tejano (Texas-Mexican) culture.

Tremé Brass Band (New Orleans, LA) New Orleans Brass Band

Central to the musical traditions of New Orleans are the African American brass bands that play for traditional funerals and street parades. Among the most beloved of these is the Tremé Brass Band from the venerable and storied Tremé neighborhood. The group is led by a New Orleans institution, drummer Benny Jones, Sr., who has been parading for nearly 60 years.

Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole (Lafayette, LA) Creole Music

Cedric Watson is among the brightest stars in a constellation of vibrant music traditions native to southwest Louisiana. A four-time Grammy-nominated fiddler, singer, accordionist, and songwriter, Cedric boldly reanimates early Louisiana Creole music—a unique, fiddle-driven style sung primarily in French, and born from a regional mix of African, French, Spanish, Caribbean, and Indigenous musical cultures. Watson's music is a hybrid of traditional Creole and Cajun songs, zydeco, broader Caribbean influences, and his own original compositions. It's also a fearless exploration of history and geography—digging deep into the musical roots shared by Afro-French Creole cultures throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

These talented group of musicians join a 2022 lineup that also includes: Cherish the Ladies (Irish), Los Pleneros de la 21 (Bomba and Plena), Dale Ann Bradley (Bluegrass), Diunna Greenleaf & Blue Mercy (Blues), Nava Persian Trio (Persian Santour), The Pedro Giraudo Tango Ensemble (Argentine Tango).

Festival organizers are excited to bring back this staple cultural event, marking a new chapter in the region's recovery from the pandemic. Festival-favorite nonprofit ethnic food vendors will also make a comeback this year. A dozen master craftspeople and local chefs will be featured in the Folk Craft & Foodways Area.

"Whether it be blues, Celtic, Cajun, beatboxing, or the myriad of other world music traditions featured over the years, the Lowell Folk Festival has always presented the best performers in the world," said Kevin Dwyer, Executive Director of the Lowell Festival Foundation. "Downtown Lowell comes alive with 150,000 visitors over the weekend taking in 20 performing groups representing a wide range of cultures, each sharing their unique musical traditions on stages, not to mention the amazing folk craft area, wonderful ethnic food vendors, and so much more."

The Lowell Folk Festival is produced by the Lowell Festival Foundation, the City of Lowell, Lowell National Historical Park, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau.

More details about the festival, including additional artists and schedules, can be found at LowellFolkFestival.org or on Lowell Folk Facebook Page. ◊

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Massachusetts Republican Party Chairman Jim Lyons gathers signatures for a ballot initiative to stop illegal aliens from getting drivers licenses.

Efforts to Repeal Licences for Illegals Meets Anti-American Resistance

The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance has announced their endorsement of the efforts to repeal a law recently passed to give drivers licenses to illegal aliens.

Jim Lyons, Chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party, has been holding signature drives to put the issue on the ballot and let Massachusetts voters decide.

But Lyons' efforts have been met with an extreme reaction by Democrats who support illegals. Last week, Lyons was in Tewksbury gathering signatures at a shopping mall when State Senator Jamie Eldredge and other Democrat activists not only encouraged people not to sign the petition, but some actually tried to block voters from signing it.

Lyons posted photos on Facebook and other social media sites complaining of the interference with his constitutional rights to gather signatures.

"The Radical Democrats have "blockers" interfering with the right to petition the citizens to decide if illegal immigrants should have driver's licenses," Lyons said. "The opposition is angry and do not believe that the people should be allowed to vote."

Mass Fiscal Alliance says they support Lyons' efforts to repeal the new law and says they believe voters should decide.

"The legislature's move, driven by Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka, to give driver's licenses to people in this country illegally resonated like no other issue before with the people of Massachusetts. MassFiscal set a record with the number of people who used our website to contact their legislators opposing this vote. Thousands of people reached out to their state legislators and many individual lawmakers received hundreds of emails from their constituents as a direct result of our advocacy to hold our elected officials accountable," noted Paul Diego Craney, a spokesman for MassFiscal.

"It's unfortunate that so many lawmakers chose to ignore the will of their constituents and forced the bill through. Fortunately, the referendum process will give the citizens of the Commonwealth an opportunity to right this wrong, despite Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka's best effort to sidestep the will of their constituents," noted Craney.

The Fair and Secure MA committee, which organized as the official group championing the referendum, has until August 24th to collect around 41,000 signatures to get the law on the November ballot before it can take effect. Website is: www.FairAndSecureMA.com." ◊

GOP: FROM PAGE 7

But Archinski didn't stop there.

"Basically, I'm a little bit surprised that someone who purportedly works in HR doesn't like the fact that we're submitting a selectmen (sic) code of conduct," he said to Genest.

Then he turned to Kopcinski. "A lawyer… lawyers have some of the most stringent ethics and code of conducts (sic) rules and regulations. It's almost like saying lawyers don't need one either. I don't get that Jennifer," Archinski said.

Once he stopped his bully babbling, Genest called Archinski's comments out of order. "As far as my HR, my professional history is not on the agenda here tonight, Mr. Archinski," she said.

Irony: Archinski raises the private-sector, professional careers of his colleagues while his own public-sector career as a town police officer is currently a matter of public discussion and scrutiny. Worthy scrutiny. Talk about hypocrisy!

ICYMI: Months before this year's town election, resident Kevin O'Brien submitted a public records request asking for documents related to Archinski's employment as a police officer. In response, O'Brien got hundreds of pages of documents, which he published online and provided to the media and producers of television shows at Dracut Access Television, including me. Among the public records released from Archinski's file were internal investigations, disciplinary actions, settlement agreements and other documents.

Many of the released documents included redacted information. Information about a half-dozen items were withheld in their entirety. O'Brien appealed the town's decision to redact and withhold the information to the state's public records keeper. The town was ordered to provide all documents in unredacted form, but their release has been delayed for months; O'Brien says he still has not received them.

(My August column will have the full details about the public records related to Archinski's employment that have been released so far. A follow-up column will cover the previously withheld and soon-to-be unredacted documents once they are finally released.)

In the meantime, here's an idea: Rather than trying to control what others say and do, questioning the careers of his colleagues and bringing more unnecessary political drama to local government, Archinski should take a good look at himself in the code-of-conduct mirror!

— Brian Genest, chairman of the Dracut Republic Town Committee, believes in our First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Happy Independence Day! ◊

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

SUMMERTIME

GOOD EEEEVENING!

Welcome to July and the first full month of the summer season.

July is known as the hottest month of the year. Time will tell if it lives up to its reputation this year. Enjoy the long hours of daylight because as we go through July the hours of daylight will be decreasing. Despite this, there is still plenty of summer to enjoy.

Since my last article, the ocean temperature has really warmed up. The ocean temperature is the warmest in August going into the month of September. Recapping June it was not as hot as last June.

Boston (Logan Airport) had only one day this past June when the temperature reached 90 degrees or higher. Areas farther inland, away from the cooler ocean, had more hot days and more than one day of 90 degrees or higher.

Compared to June of last year, we saw more cooler days this June. The weather on the weekend of June 18 & 19 was quite chilly for June in fact high temperatures were only in the low-middle 60s. These temperatures made it feel more like late

September and early October. An upper-level area of LOW PRESHA was responsible for the chilly weather keeping the jet stream south of our area. This kept the air aloft quite cold and unusual for June. The air aloft was cold enough that it snowed on the top of Mount Washington. Snow also occurred over the highest peaks of the northern New England mountains. The reason for the chilly weather and snow was an amplified Jet stream which contributed to the upper-level LOW PRESHA system forming. This amplified jet stream caused a blocking pattern in the upper atmosphere. This block was called an Omega Block. To visualize this block picture the omega symbol in mathematics. The jet stream makes the configuration of the omega symbol. When this occurs a block forms in the atmosphere and weather systems can stop moving (become stationary). Also, this block can cause weather systems to retrograde and move from east to west. Weather normally moves from west to east! During this block, the middle part of the country (including the northern plains), Midwest, and Ohio Valley saw many consecutive days in the 90s. Also, high temperatures in the 100s occurred over the Dakotas and Minnesota. This weather was uncomfortable for people living in these areas. These areas were under the strong upper-level HIGH PRESHA system that remained stationary due to the Omega Block. This resulted in days and days of very hot weather. Due to the block, this hot air could not move east into our area. This block started to weaken somewhat and by Sunday June 26th some of this hot air to our west finally made it into our area. On this Sunday many inland areas saw high temperatures in the low-middle 90s. This was the day that Boston (Logan Airport) reached 90 degrees the first time this year.

Last June (2021), Boston had 9 days in which the temperature reached to 90 degrees or higher. On June 30th last year Boston reached 100 degrees. Last June we did not have the blocking pattern or as amplified of a jet stream, hence June of last year was hotter. Lastly on this Omega Block I just want to mention that this block is nothing new to our weather. In years past you would see this block more in March and April not really in June.

Why are we getting this block in June? I cannot give you a definite answer; all I can see is that the jet stream has become more amplified after we move past April.

Next, I want to review tips for hot summer weather. They are as follows: drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. Wear light weight clothing, shorts and tee shirts. Wear light colors; dark colors absorb more heat from the strong sun. If you work outside take frequent breaks in shaded areas and make sure you drink enough water.

Check in on elderly relatives and neighbors. If you are outside at the beach or on a golf or tennis court and you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately inside a building and away from windows.

When you hear thunder, the lightning is close enough where you can get struck. After the thunderstorm is over you should wait 30 minutes before going back outside. Also, during hot weather never leave your children or pets inside a car with the windows closed. This is lethal. Also, during a thunderstorm stay away from trees. If you see downed trees and power lines stay away and call your utility company or 911. Towards the end of June, the activity in the tropics was starting to increase.

Will July be a busy month? Will we have any heat waves that are three or more consecutive days of 90 degrees or higher? In June there were zero heat waves. Stay tuned to next month's article for these answers!!

Before I close, if you lose power this summer due to a severe thunderstorm with strong damaging winds, remember: if you have a portable generator make sure it is well away from your house.

Never run it in the garage! Enjoy summer and be safe! ◊

KANE'S CORNER ~ Jeffrey Hollett

The City of Haverhill Veteran Service Officer

Kane went on a field trip to interview Haverhill Veteran Service Officer Jeffrey Hollett at his office in Haverhill, MA. Jeffrey has dedicated his professional life to helping Veterans navigate civilian life after serving our country with honor. Jeffrey, who originally served as the VSO in Dracut, stated that Haverhill has given him the unique opportunity to serve veterans and their families from a variety of age groups and military campaigns. It would not be unusual for him to assist a young adult veteran trying to find a new job, and then assist a veteran with retirement plans in the same morning. Overall, Haverhill is a community with many veterans from various backgrounds and levels of need. Hollett a veteran of the Army himself, says, 'I love my job, but it does pull on your heart strings.'

Kane learned that many community members think the Veteran Service Officer's job was limited to determining eligibility for burial benefits and submitting paperwork. (Chapter 115 benefits). Although assisting families with burial paperwork and costs is extremely important, the VSO wears many hats. A focal point of the position is advising, engaging, and advocating for the veterans that reside in the City of Haverhill. This is one way of thanking veterans for the sacrifices they have made.

A key component for the position is networking and collaborating with a variety of local services and Veteran organizations. Many of these agencies work collaboratively to pool resources, but a key component is knowing where to go to find them. Needs may be very great such as finding housing for a homeless veteran or determining eligibility for school. Jeffrey Hollett has found over the years that it is hard for veterans to ask for help. Many have spent a life of service putting others and their country before their own needs. It is not uncommon for Jeff to talk to people on the phone several times before they even step foot in the building. Kane learned that common needs are meeting like-minded people, finding employment, finding housing, and relationship challenges. Meeting with another veteran allows a commonality and expected understanding that feels safe and familiar.

Another key component of the VSO position is educating the public on veteran experiences and doing outreach. Jeffrey is working collaboratively with Jamie Melendez (Lawrence VSO) to expand a program that links a young child with a veteran to have conversations and spend time together. This program would bridge the gap between generations and give veterans the opportunity to share their experiences serving others and their county.

Another exciting event is the 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard will be playing at the Haverhill Riverside Park on July 7th, 2022. This event has come together through the networking of several different agencies. Jeff explained to Kane that events like this give Jeff an opportunity to meet veterans and their family organically out in the community. It is not as formal as meeting in an office. It is a great way to build relationships, meet people, and educate the public on veteran needs, sacrifices, and of course celebrate all they have accomplished.

Overall, Jeffrey Hollett has hit the ground running as the VSO in Haverhill, MA. Kane could see why people enjoy meeting with Jeffrey. He is both approachable and knowledgeable in his field. Kane felt so comfortable he took a quick cat nap during the visit. If you would like to reach out to Jeffrey Hollett, this is his contact information:

Jeffrey Hollett
978-374-2351 ext 3933
jhollett@cityofhaverhill.com
Happy 4th of July to all!
Kane Peaslee, Woof ◊

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Preventive Procedures

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all.

Let us review and list the preventive studies and immunizations for adults that are required for health maintenance. These are added to the history and physical done by the primary care clinician and advice for healthy lifestyle, sun protection, and geriatric health assessment.

- Immunizations: Tdap for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis once and then once every 10 years. Shingles vaccine, called Shingrix, after age 50, given in two doses at least 2 months apart. The Flu shot every year. We might need a Covid vaccine every year if this is what our science finds out. Add the Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine after age 65.

- Immunizations for travel abroad will be covered separately.

- Cholesterol and Diabetes testing after age 35, then every 2 to 3 years, depending on the case. These days teenagers with obesity are getting type 2 diabetes (Type 1 diabetes is a different disease due to pancreatic destruction and can happen in children).

- Pap smears every 3 to 5 years after age 22, until 65.

- Mammography after age 50 to 74, every 2 years, but starting at 40 if there is indication.

- Colonoscopy every 10 years after age 45.

- Vision and retinal exam every year or two after age 45.

- Total skin exam, every 6 to 12 months in people with multiple nevi.

- Tests for sexually transmitted diseases as indicated and prescription for PrEp, which is a very effective daily pill that prevents HIV, if indicated.

- Ultrasound for aortic aneurysm in smokers, once.

- Lung CT scans for some smokers.

Some of these need to be custom ordered differently according to the situation of the patient. Check with the clinician (MD, DO, PA or NP).

P. Ghassibi, md
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

DENTAL CARE

Gum Disease Compromises Your Health

If you have periodontal (gum) disease, did you know your overall health is compromised?

93% of adults have either gingivitis or periodontitis, two stages of gum disease.

Periodontal (gum) disease is an infection of the gums in the mouth that can destroy the bone. If periodontal disease is not addressed properly, it could lead to loss of teeth and much more.

Not only could periodontal (gum) disease lead to tooth loss but there is also a connection between gum disease and overall health problems. The bacteria in the mouth can spread to other parts of the body and cause secondary problems. Having periodontal (gum) disease makes you 50% prone to having a heart attack, 47% more prone to having a stroke, and 35% more likely to develop kidney, pancreatic, or liver cancer. It is a chronic inflammatory disease that places people at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, respiratory disease, pancreatic/kidney cancer, and low birth weight/pre-term births in women. The reason being is that the bacteria responsible for periodontal (gum) disease may actively enter the circulation and become trapped in many organs and tissues.

Do you have periodontal (gum) disease? Have you noticed the following signs and symptoms: red or swollen gums, bleeding gums, bad breath or taste that won't go away, loose teeth, gums that have pulled away from teeth?

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

years of service in the Army. Another young Veteran on the team is Michael McGee. He is the events coordinator. Mike is a Massachusetts native who served in the US Marine Corps from 2009-2013, joining fresh out of high school at the age of 17. Mike served in the Corp's Engineer and Maintenance field and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Please visit their website 22Mohawks.com to learn more about this dynamic organization.

David and I discussed Veteran's issues over breakfast at ML Shaw's in Dracut. Registering Veterans to Vote, assisting Veterans in accessing housing, health care, job training, access to higher education, and reaching out to Veterans in distress are all important roles for each communities Veterans Services Officer, and David is prepared to meet them head on. Two of the most important things a Veteran can do, to help their brother or sister Veterans, is to check the "Veteran" box on the US Census form that is mailed to their home and have "Veteran" stamped on the Massachusetts Driver's License. This is how local, state, and federal government agencies can track how many Veterans live in a geographic area and affects funding of Veterans programs. The number of Veterans Services Officers and support staff assigned to a community reflects how many Veterans live in that community.

Dave and his family live in Millis, Massachusetts, with his fiancé Stacey Coyne, who he's known since 6th grade. The couple were classmates at Norwood High, where they grew up. They have two daughters Isabella, who is sixteen, Emily who is eleven and their dog named, Winston. Dave will also finish his master's degree in public administration this year.

Dedicated to Veterans, Stacey, and David, along with their team at 22 Mohawks, and all of Massachusetts Veterans Services Officers are truly Heroes in Our Midst.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, our mission is working with Congress, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

Doughty Campaign Fires Back at Genest

Holly Robichaud
CHRIS DOUGHTY CAMPAIGN

Most of us learn at an early age that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Clearly Brian Genest has not learned this life lesson. In his June column, he threw a lot of stones at Chris Doughty, Republican candidate for Governor while ignoring the failures of his candidate.

Chris Doughty is not a professional politician. He has spent a lifetime creating jobs not worrying about the next election. On the other hand, his Primary opponent, who is a former Democrat, is a career politician who voted for Joe Biden. So Genest should stop throwing stones about who is the purest Republican. Furthermore, Genest brags about his candidate's so-called victory at the Massachusetts GOP Convention, however, he fails to disclose that the State Party Chair, the convention coordinator, the chairman of the convention, the rules committee chair and the credentials committee were are all endorsers of Doughty's opponent. Hence, the odds were stacked against Doughty who got twice the amount needed!

But this race for Governor is not about insider politics. It is about who is the best person to be Governor and that person is Chris Doughty.

Doughty is an entrepreneur and devoted father and husband. He is the only job creator and the only outsider in the race. For more than three decades he has worked to build businesses that provide good jobs, while juggling being a hands-on dad for his six children and serving in the community.

Doughty has overseen the expansion of Capstan Industries from its initial startup of a few dozen employees to become, at its peak, a large multinational manufacturer. As a business owner and job creator, he dealt with all kinds of challenges — from low-cost international imports to government regulation. He has worked hard to make his company a place people were proud to work.

Doughty graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.S. in economics and received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is well qualified to be our Governor.

But, what will Doughty do for you? As he likes to say, "You will have more dough with Doughty."

Doughty was the first candidate to call for the suspension of the gas tax to help ease the pain at the pump. His plan is to suspend the gas tax until the price of gas drops below $3.70 per gallon.

"The state has the funds, so there is no reason that the State House cannot help the hard working taxpayers. Family budgets are being devastated by the price of fuel. As a state, we need to provide a helping hand. As the next Governor, we will be proactive in responding to crises," said Doughty.

Doughty has also pledge to end the Commonwealth's reputation of being "Taxachusetts." One of his first of many steps will be to work to disband the Tax Expenditure Commission to establish a Tax Reduction Commission. Doughty's goal is to reduce more taxes than Bill Weld did as Governor.

"We don't need a Commission looking for new ways to tax us. We need a Commission finding ways to reduce our tax burden and making the Commonwealth more competitive with other states. As the next Governor, I will work to disband the Tax Expenditure Commission and replace it with a Tax Reduction Commission," promised Doughty.

Like you, Doughty opposes licenses for illegal immigrants. But, he knows that the true problem is that Massachusetts is a magnet state. As our next Governor, he will strengthen verification of applications for public assistance so only the truly needy and legal residents receive benefits. The Department of Transitional Assistance will institute a new verification process that will compare the person's application with the following searchable databases:

- Immigration status information maintained by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Social security number verification.
- Death register information maintained by the Social Security Administration.
- Supplemental Security Income information maintained by the Social Security Administration in its SSI State Data Exchange (SDX) database.
- See website for the full list

As an experienced job creator, Doughty has a small business bill of rights plan to support those who create the majority of new jobs in our state.

"As a business owner, I have worked hard to always comply with new regulations, but it has not been easy. Creating jobs and meeting a payroll is not for the faint of heart. State government should be advocates and partners with our local businesses so the Commonwealth can create more jobs and raise wages. We do that by encouraging entrepreneurship and small businesses that are the backbone of our economy," said Doughty.

We can count on Doughty to make Massachusetts affordable again. To see more details on his small business bill of rights and other issues visit ChrisforMA.com. Chris would be honored to have your vote in the GOP Primary.

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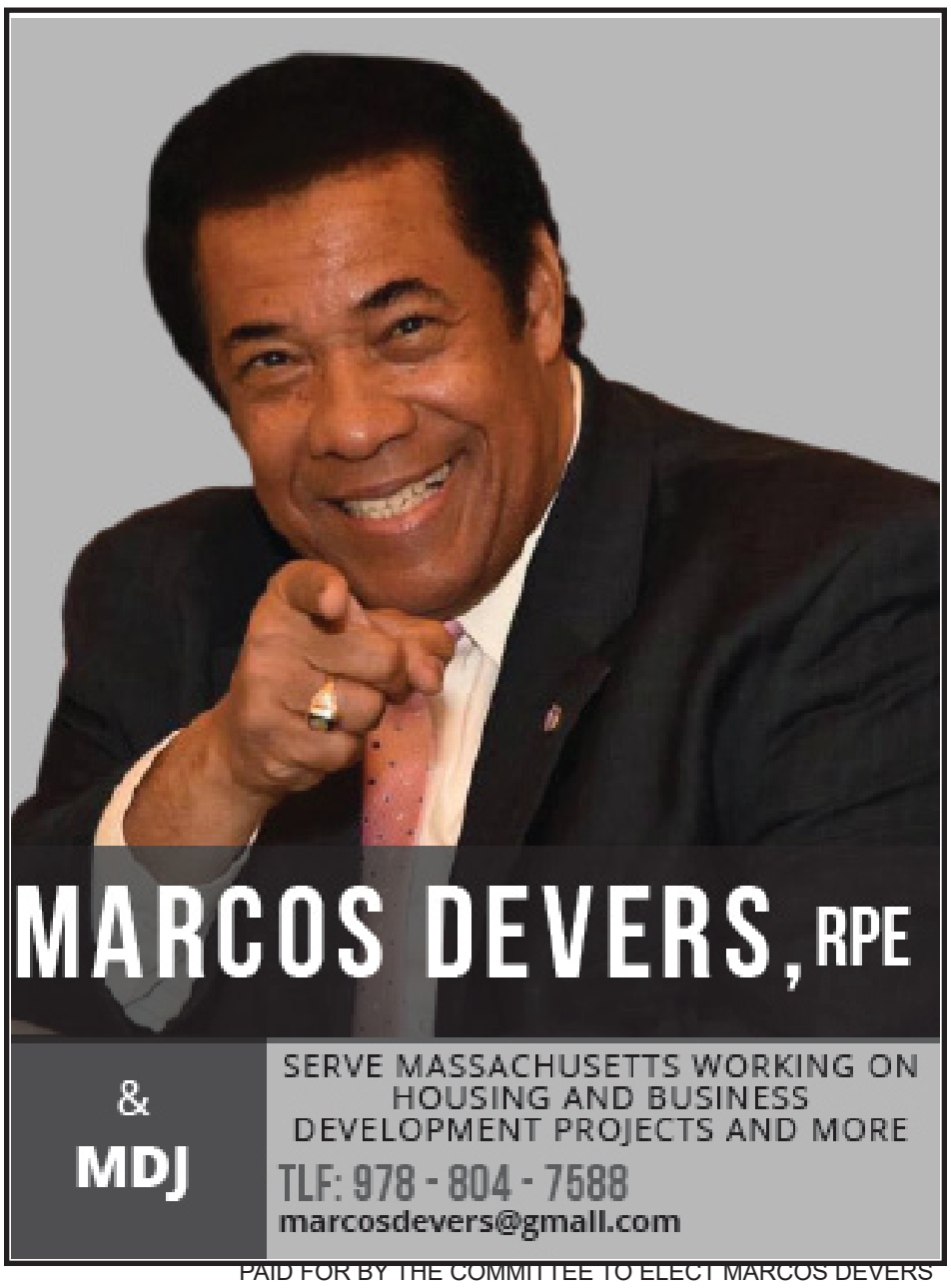

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARCOS DEVERS

YE GAY O'LE VALLEY: The Big Lie!

Dani B. Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

We need to stop them. They are not like us. It's a matter of national security. If we allow more of them in, they will destroy the American family. We have to protect our women and children, our borders, our way of life. It's for the greater good. THEY will destroy America.

To whom or what am I referring? Immigrants? LGBTQIA? Mexicans, Latinos, Muslims, Asians? Did white, straight men come to anyone's mind? No? What does that tell you? I've seen a lot of ugly talk about moving backwards. Roe v. Wade is looking like it will be overturned and there is palpable and justifiable fear that other rights will follow. Rights like birth control, same sex marriages and protections, and even an attack on interracial marriages. Why? Because the white lies are catching up. The lies that started at the inception of our country to quite literally beat, rape and murder their ways into our very psyche to fight amongst ourselves and it's been working. We're killing each other in the streets, malls, massage parlors and schools. People are condemned for who they love and how they live even when it has no effect on those complaining about them. Lies have filtered into our DNA to make us behave far from human.

Let's start with the first lies: Black people are inferior and white men (not people, men) are superior to everyone. Don't forget, we fought a revolution for our freedom while simultaneously writing a Constitution that embraced slavery. White Americans were told that Black Americans weren't as evolved, intelligent, and had less of a capacity to feel emotionally and physically than their white counterparts. As abolitionists and the enslaved Black Americans began to demand more rights and prove their white owner's lies were, in fact, just lies, change began. More Black Americans were being voted into office and white policy makers went into a full-blown panic over a threat that didn't exist. To prevent any further evolution of minority rights, they passed literacy tests, good character laws and poll taxes to prevent Freedmen from voting. But they disguised it by wrapping it all in lies by saying they were, "protecting the vote." They kept lying until the 9 black men who had been voted into Congress and the thousands of black men who had been elected to one office or another were replaced by white men. It would take another six decades for another black man to see the inside of Congress due to more lies. They even created a false science called Eugenics that conducted bogus and manipulated studies comparing different cultures of people to primates. I will use the word culture instead of race because "race" is a human construct. There is really only one race- the human race. Eugenics was used for selective breeding and forced sterilization. Thousands of women, mostly minorities or those having some form of physical, emotional or mental illness were forced to have their reproductive organs ripped from them without consent. Now, in 2022, they are treating women as if they still don't know their own bodies again and will force them to have babies that they do not want. The men making these decisions are now reducing women to human baby dispensers (brought to you by Pez). So, they've ripped out our uterus in the past and now they are force stuffing it.

Another lie: We must protect our women and children. Yes, protect them from everyone except the policy makers. When the colonies were established, they naturally adopted England's laws. One of those laws was that a child inherited their father's lineage. But we had slavery. The raping of black female slaves was common resulting in children which would mean a black child (no recognition of their white lineage) would inherit their father's property. Can't have that happen. So, the clever little colonists changed the law to say that a child would inherit the mother's lineage. This meant that violent slave owners could rape and impregnate their female slaves at will and provide themselves with an endless supply of slaves. Slaves that will have more slaves and remain slaves from birth till death, along with their children and their children's children. Land of the free? The laws that protected white women from men of color did not protect them from white men. White women were protected from being assaulted by black men but, for white men, it could be a free for all. And we all know what happens to a woman when she cries rape or sexual assault. There's a whole lot of victim shaming. I don't really see any of this as protecting women. Lies, "We'll protect you from them but not from us."

And now Roe v. Wade has been overturned. Congratulations! Women are no longer citizens of the United States. We are wards of men's desires, wants and needs. We no longer have control over our own reproductive rights which means we have no control over our lives. Men can f^@k us at will, and they will walk away with a happy ending while girls and women will begin their nightmare. Justice Thomas mentioned revisiting birth control and same sex marriages. What's next? Some GOP leaders are talking about having lesbians shot. Justices who said, under oath, that they would uphold Roe v. Wade lied! Now we are going to have millions of children born into poverty and into single households and I can guarantee you they will not pour money into any social programs to help them because the mothers will be blamed.

What about the children? Yes, the children that America tethered to industrial machines for upwards of sixteen hours a day. The children who will be forced to be born and if they are anything other than white males will have to fight for every right. That's if they survive grades k through 12 without being shot. Our children are our most important investment, yet I see no bumper stickers that say, "You can have my child when you pry them from my cold dead hands." Nope, that would be guns. There are plenty of people who proudly scream that they would die for their guns but not their children. In fact, if their child is raped and gets pregnant they support them being forced to go to full term. You didn't protect them from getting raped and now you're forcing them to build an entire human being in their own body that isn't even fully developed. Lies, lies, lies. This is why Roe v. Wade is being attacked. The big red elephants are angry because fifty years ago their subjugation of women had a wrench thrown into the works and they have been working ever since to slam us back into the kitchen and their beds. Now they hide behind the lies of protecting the unborn when all they are really doing is trying to control women. For the women who support them, you've been brainwashed. There's no need to protect the lives of the unborn when the children we have are being abused, given up, disowned, raped, forced to have children and murdered in our schools and malls. Stop lying to us and take care of our damn children like you promised.

What if all the rape babies all turn out to be LGBTQIA? What will you do with millions of new gay kids? You'll remind them daily that they are not wanted or loved. You will let them know that they are freaks of nature. You'll kick them out of your homes, schools and churches. There will be millions of homeless LGBTQIA kids roaming aimlessly through the streets of America trying to find a complete education, love in the wrong places, leather chaps or sequined dresses. And since anything remotely LGBTQIA have been erased from books, schools and media many of them will kill themselves and the red elephants will say, "See, they were mentally unstable any way." More and more lies. I can guarantee you at least 10% of the rape babies will be gay and most of them will be minority according to statistics and then they'll really be forgotten. Those who forced them to be born will again ignore them, force more rape babies to be born and wonder why there is an explosion of gay and minority babies. They will use these new statistics to pass more and more discriminatory policies for a problem that they created.

I wouldn't be surprised if there are big red elephants behind the lies for the baby formula shortage. How many are invested in those companies? 200 big red elephants voted against a bill that would have eased up the baby formula shortage. Well, that says a lot. Lies are what got women to switch from breastfeeding to formula. Lies about the health benefits of formula and the deceptive way they got women to switch. They did this by giving them a limited supply of formula from 2-4 weeks. "Try it with your little one. Then decide." By the time the free samples were gone, the mother's milk was dried up and she had no choice but to stay on formula. (That's right men, women can't produce milk on command) They did this in third world countries, too. Even gave them the water to mix with the formula. At the end of a few weeks, the mothers were left with no formula, clean water or breast milk. You know what else they didn't have? Stores to buy more formula and, if they got it, clean water to mix it with leaving their babies sick and oftentimes leading to death. Lies.

More and more people are seeing through these lies. I teach hundreds of young students just a year or two from voting and they're pissed. Most of them despise the red elephants and can't wait to get rid of them. They know that women don't need protecting nor does their reproductive system need to be dictated by men. They don't want to be told what books they can and can't read, who they can love and how they can define themselves. These young adults say they need protecting now, not before they're born. They are also keenly aware that LGBTQIA people will not and have not destroyed America or the American family. Books will not turn people LGBTQIA. Trust me. Every single LGBTQIA person has had heterosexuality shoved down their throat, in their ears, washed into their hair, brushed into their teeth and indoctrinated by every tv show, song, play, book, clothing store that separate clothing by sex, fast food joints that ask for a girl or boy toy, toys separated by sex, and gender reveal parties AND we are still gay. Lie, lies, and more lies and you bought them hook, line and sinker. How's it taste?

The big red elephants will tell you that "the others" are destroying the American Way while they pick your pocket and feed you more lies. They will say that only big red elephants can keep America safe from an invisible threat that they made up. They will banish other big red elephants that don't follow the herd, calling them Elephants only in name. You see, big red elephants don't like anything but other big red elephants. They will spread lies about purple monkeys, pink flamingos, unborn skittles, and an array of other colorful creatures from other parts of the world or even in the US and say they are dangerous. It's really that the big red elephants are spreading lies to make you think big red elephants are the best animals around. Imagine a world with nothing but big red elephants. Who's going to pick up all the poop? It certainly won't be the big orange orangutan. He's the one slinging the most of it.

I asked my US History students to answer the question: Has America stood up to its promise of equality and freedom for all? Every single one of them said, "NO!" Our future voters are not going to put up with big lies from red elephants. ◊

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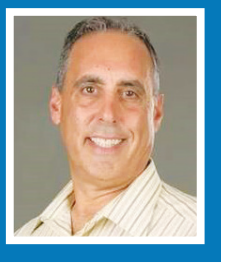

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MAY, 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Rhino 3 Riverside LLC, 3 Riverside Owner LLC, 19,822,000, 3 Riverside Dr

Hughes Realty Tr & Robert & Susan Hughes Tr, Dorothy & Michael Feng, 3,610,000, 62 Salem St

US Bank Trust NA Tr, Richard & Caitlin Pierce, 2,300,000, 290 South Main St

Ruffian LLC, Plover Capitol LLC, 2,150,000, 176 River Rd

Richard & Juliana Quinn, Ali Hussein & Lisa Mccormack, 1,825,000, 26 Shipman Rd

275 South Main St LLC, Jennifer Poitras Tr & Christine P Stevens 2018 Trust, 1,800,000, 275 South Main St

Kent Earle & Diane Dillon , Andrew Young & Mengdi Lu, 1,700,000, 7 Lenox Cir

Philip Farmer, Andrew & Tara Quatrale, 1,695,000, 26 Vine St

Neil & Kathleen Kirby , Anh & Ngoc Nguyen, 1,615,000, 3 Meadow View Ln

Htay Han & Latt Mying, Kate Mignosi & Siva Patimalla, 1,600,000, 11 Jordyn Ln

Jennifer P Mosher 2019 Living Tr & Jennifer Mosher Tr, Jonathan Almagro & Eliza Perocchi, 1,550,000, 2 Robandy Rd

Michael Scott Development LLC, Andrew & Kathryn Hannigan, 1,550,000, 121 Andover St

Jennifer L Fantozzi Revocable Tr & Louise & Jennifer Fantozzi Tr & Louise R Fantozzi Revocable Tr, New England Blosson LLC, 1,520,000, 5 Meadow View Ln

Nancy L Higgins Revocable Tr-2008 & John Higgins Ind Tr & James Higgins Tr & Jeffrey Wakelin Tr & Family Trust Trust Under Article Fifth of the Nancy L Higgins Revocable Tr & Madeleine Oconnor Tr & John G Higgins Residence Tr 2016 & John Higgins Est & John Higgins Est, Eric & Brittany French, 1,455,000, 21 Timothy Dr

Richard & Karen Shahtanian, Cameron & Colleen Becker, 1,450,000, 2 Somerset Dr

Maurice & Tracey Tenney, Richard & Linda Arndt, 1,435,000, 26 Crenshaw Ln Unit 11-3

PD Building LLC, Brian & Krista Toomey, 1,403,036, 7R Pettingell Ave

Ariel & Whitney Jablonki, Shaw Wu & Yu Chen, 1,403,000, 87 Woburn St

Kevin & Gayle Tassinari , Jonathan & Gretchen Pereira, 1,375,000, 3 Jillians Way

Soelch Revocable Tr & Michael & Lauren Soelch Tr, Brian Ferla, 1,350,000, 97 Argilla Rd

84 Andover St LLC, Cornelis & Malerie Fielder, 1,300,000, 117 Ballardvale Rd

John & Priscilla Gannon, 2017 Maki N Bara Family Tr & Maki Bara Tr, 1,275,000, 21 Ivana Dr Unit 21

Anne & Philip Dever, Timothy & Lisa Dore, 1,252,000, 5 Landau Ln

2015 Todisco Realty Tr & Cheryl & Michael Todisco Tr, Brian Lebl, 1,250,000, 14 Bradley Rd

Siu Li & Patricia Fung, Thomas & Dimitrios Bourdon, 1,250,000, 9 Pomeroy Rd

Kenneth & Kristen Aulbach, Joshua & Jamie Caplan, 1,200,000, 13 Kathleen Dr

Keith Xu & Jingwen Zhu, Connor & Shelby McNamara, 1,200,000, 5 Bridle Path Rd

Francis & Joan Mccarthy, Douglas & Stacey Heim, 1,196,500, 11 College Cir

Saba Realty Tr & John & Debra Saba Tr, Michael & Andrea Bergeron, 1,126,500, 6 Spruce Cir

Bharath Kodalie & Chaitanya Kaita, Zhe Liu & Jingyi Zhu, 1,116,000, 2 Patriot Dr

Evan Teplow, Miguel & Christine Salaman, 1,100,000, 11 Judson Rd

Suzanne Griffin & Robert Weiss, Bon Koo & Timothy Suarez, 1,075,000, 50 Wildwood Rd

Lei Feng & Steve Zhang, Chang & Jamie Hong, 1,060,000, 1 Island Way

Daniel & Sarah Mees, Matthew & Alyssa Mcardle, 1,051,000, 30 Birch Rd

Elizabeth & Dana Flanders , Ryan Tompkins & Meredith Anthoine, 1,050,000, 3 Woodhaven Dr

BNY Mellon N A Tr & King Realty, Christopher & Kelly Caverly, 1,050,000, 9 Blueberry Hill Rd

Keith & Nicole Bernardo, Louis & Alyssa Peracchi, 1,035,000, 4 Governors Dr

Sam & Samuel & Tracey Haslam, Kevin & Jacklyn Foley, 1,010,000, 47 Juniper Rd

Marshal & Robyn Grant, Mary Fracchia & Michael Goddard, 1,005,900, 10 Timothy Dr

A and T Realty Tr & Theresa & Terry Levay Tr, Robert & Allison Sawtelle, 1,005,000, 366 High Plain Rd

Matthew Gery & Tracy McNeill & Tracy McNeil, Timothy & Julie Hussey, 1,000,000, 1 Langley Ln

Edward & Leslie Noymer, Brian & Ashley Almendinger, 990,000, 4 Windmere Dr

Diem Tran, Mranal Jain & Ritika Bhansali, 990,000, 205 High St

Cody Famliy Nominee Tr & Alison & Thomas Cody Tr, Casey & Anthony Goodnough, 980,000, 99 Chestnut St

David Toebes & Elizabeth Rafferty, George & Elizabeth Landers, 950,000, 4 Brundrett Ave

David & Jessica Bunting & Jessica Coletti, Robert Dum, 916,000, 3 Wagon Wheel Rd

Pace-Kennaway Family Revocable Tr & Scott Pace Tr & Elizabeth Kennaway Tr, Mary Ferguson & Ronald Bisio, 905,750, 20 Avon St

Nathan & Lynette Elam, Thiago De Oliveira & Isabela Rosa, 901,000, 89 High Plain Rd

Michael Basile , James & Katherine Chambers, 875,000, 9 Waverly Dr

66 Haymeadown Road Realty Tr & Mary & Stephen Kurkul Tr, Daniel & meghan Mcdermott, 875,000, 97 Wild Rose Dr

Julia C Hsia Revocable Living Tr & Julia Hsia Tr & Gary Vining Tr, Matthew & Amanda Cleary, 865,000, 9 Bayberry Ln

Hemanth & Sindhu Chinni, Arjun Yadiki & Bindu Rachamadugu, 840,000, 21 Boardwalk Dr Unit 21

Richard Roycroft & Yvonne & Richard Roycraft, Barry & Betsy Singelais, 835,000, 63 Lovejoy Rd

Michael & June Dimodica, Buyer Accepted LLC, 830,000, 15 Iron Gate Dr

Alex & Mon Tang, Megha & Nirav Dhamsania, 825,000, 7 Penni Ln

Shashank Nalla & Archana Pothula, Duhgoon Lee & Nakyoung Kim, 815,000, 29 Boardwalk Dr Unit 29

FJ Realty Tr & Laurie Trout Tr & Laurie Derderian Tr, Thomas & Kathleen Sambuco, 799,000, 98 Cheever Cir

Kelsey & Daniel Driscoll, Jason & Alyssa Andresen, 760,000, 6 Alderbrook Rd

Bertrand & Camille Ouellette, Merrimack College, 750,000, 30 Fox Hill Rd

Christopher & Jenna Macphee & Jenna Leighty-Boschetto, Margaret Legner-Rumson, 750,000, 9 Hall Ave

Jam Realty Trust LLC, Vas Realty LLC, 730,000, 117 Bellevue Rd

Stamas Realty Tr & Theodore & James Stamas Tr & Kathleen Pratt Tr, Zachary Lankow & Rachael Klehm, 725,000, 5 Virginia Rd

Carrick Nominee Realty Tr & Hilary Waldron, Chirag Chohan & Lisa Howe, 687,000, 15 Argyle St

Maryann Uggerholt, Dylan Ethan LLC, 685,000, 76 Wild Rose Dr

David Buttry, Michael Reidy & Franco Lozano, 660,000, 8 Laurel Ln

John & Angelina Capomaccio, Fabio & Jliana Rosa, 650,000, 6 Clover Cir

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, John & Ellen Donlevy, 633,525, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 305

Robert Marshall, Riverdale Construction LLC, 601,000, 4 Samos Ln

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, James & Maria Groleau, 590,210, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 2301

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Carol A Durfee Living Tr & Carol Durfee Tr, 587,555, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 2201

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, John & Maria Oday & Maria Dutra, 582,020, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 105

Daniel & Dorothea Poletti, Allison Rieke & Leo Bremer, 580,000, 87 Pine St

147 Elm St Realty Tr, Merrimack College, 580,000, 147 Elm St

Nicholas Doucakis, Tunde Szivak, 575,000, 50 Lupine Rd

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Jean Guilmartin, 574,805, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 203

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Frederick & Theresa Barker, 567,410, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 205

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Joan Hobbs & David Ganeto, 564,165, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 209

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Susan Goldman & George Torigian, 563,300, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 204

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Isabelle Defraia Revocable Asset Management Tr & Isabelle, Christopher, & Daniel Defraia Tr, 563,135, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 104

Ryan & Robyn Noonan, Shawn Noonan & Lisette Pylant, 562,000, 141 High Plain Rd

Eric & Tamara Kessel, Inthearena LLC, 560,000, 55 Greenwood Rd

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Connie & Jieh Shyu, 555,510, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 101

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Dimodica Family Living Tr & Michael & June Dimodica Tr, 534,535, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 306

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Robert A Adamek & Janice K Adamek Tr & Robert Adamek Tr & Janice Adamek Tr, 534,520, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 303

Karen Madigan Revocable Tr & Karen Madigan Tr, Galiano Residence Tr & Elizabeth Galiano Tr, 532,000, 1 Francis Dr Unit 201

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Jose & Judith Ramirez, 531,635, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 109

Laurie & Robert Gill, Brian Glaser & Michael Spenard, 525,000, 174 Haverhill St Unit 314

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Donna Dirusso, 515,475, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 206

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Stefan & Marian Feltens, 504,320, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 103

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Hammer Family Irrevocable Tr & Robyn Hammer Tr, 498,100, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 106

28 Boston Road Realty Tr & Helen Hancock Tr, Weichun Li, 471,000, 28 Boston Rd

Suzanne Robert, Leo Zelikman, 470,000, 37 Stevens St

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Sean Szekely, 465,005, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 107

Winifred M Doublas 2020 Revocable Tr & Winifred Douglas Tr, Edward Olin Jr, 450,000, 1 Powder Mill Sq Unit 101A

Anjaneya Vittal Kuma & Sravanthi Dasari, Robin Bzura, 440,000, 502 Brookside Dr Unit 300C

Ralph Caruso & Diana Cascone, Richard & Mary Auterio, 395,000, 2 Francis Dr Unit 203

Old County Road Realty Tr & Steven Gibson Tr, SAI Builders LLC, 385,000, 51 County Rd

Samantha Pierro, Ronald Wiltshire, 365,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 102

George Decristo, Narendra Byrapuram & Bhargavi Kallamadi, 324,000, 50B Washington Park Dr Unit 5

Kristina Regonini, Stacy Gilbert, 313,000, 6 Maple Ave Unit 2

Joanne Oullette & Michael Bruno Est, Robert & Stacia & Griffin Murphy, 275,000, 100 1/2 Main St Unit M

LAWRENCE

Key Polymer Real Estate LLC, Exeter 17 Shepard L P, 28,320,000, 13-17 Shepard St

Jason Sabatino, 29 Brook Street Realty LLC, 1,675,000, 29-33 Brook St

Frank Efezokhae Jr, Ruberth, Ruben, & Damaris Lara, 775,000, 268-270 Hampshire St

38 Fulton Realty Tr & Steven Derosa Tr, Darleny Melo & Sammy Rosario, 750,000, 38 Fulton St

Peter Silva, Orialis Jaime & Nilson Perez-Baez, 739,700, 21-23 Dorchester St

Dallas Alvarez, Yandiel Perez & Jeffrey De La Cruz & Raul Felix, 735,000, 381-381A Hampshire St

AAR Real Estate Holdings LLC, GG Investments LLC, 705,000, 89 So Broadway

Rafael & Maria Crisostomo, Ramona Marte & George Herrera & Clarissa Santana, 700,000, 197 Prospect St

Yadira Vargas & Jose Feliz, Daynner Morfa & Gabriel Jimenez, 700,000, 74-76 Nesmith St

Maria Martins, Albert Mota & Hector Disla & Leomerys Bautista & Albert Mota, 680,000, 43 Winthrop Ave

Edrich Realty Tr & Linda Plonowski-Bollea, Nunez LLC, 675,000, 180 Jackson St

Emilia Sousa, Carlos De Leon, 655,000, 185B Park St

Christian Pena & Francisco Bonilla, Jissel Depolanco & Juan Padilla & Glenny Ortega, 650,000, 30-32 Saratoga St

Oscar & Juvelina Interiano, Rigoberto Lopez & Flavio Garcia, 645,000, 12 Archer St

Richard & Hyeyong Messer, Luis Castillo & Lissy Rivas, 630,000, 70 Woodland St

Gladys Polanco, Domingo Mejia, 625,000, 49 Boxford St

Johanny Pinales, Nicole Ramirez & Samuel Batista, 625,000, 71 Bodwell St

Elias Rodriguez, Olivia & Cristian DeLeon & Gabriela Garcia, 620,000, 190 Ferry St

Raphael Guzman & Dionisia Marte, Efrain Navas & Claudiea Merida & Jeniffer De Leon, 605,000, 604 Haverhill ST

Kennia Mejia, Carlos Siri-Nolasco, 600,180, 73-75 Arlington St

Karin & Kenneth Keyser, Hector Estrada, 600,000, 30 Kendall St

Andres Arias, Harold & Heimy Hernandez, 575,000, 505 Riverside Dr

Eric & Susan Carpenter, Hugo Morales, 540,000, 71-73 Coolidge St

Marybeth Laflamme, Ana Diaz & Leopoldo Paulino, 540,000, 49 Lenox St

Tarah & Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Juan Cruz, 540,000, 55 Louisberg St

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Free Indeed!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God Bless you all! Welcome to July 2022! It's time to celebrate our freedom as a Country. Yes, there are many things going on in our country and world today that may cause us to maybe not want to celebrate, I get that. The question that I would like to put forth is this, what is true freedom anyways? Is it the acquiring of knowledge and an understanding of the times and events that we see surrounding us? Jesus Christ, in His first coming was born a Jew, and the custom of that time was for all the young Jewish boys to know the Law of Moses. Not only that, but recite from memory the Torah. But Jesus shows up and makes a declaration in John 8:31-36, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." NKJV. First, Jesus declares, "to be His disciple you must abide, which means to stay, in His Word. Then he says, You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Then adds one more thought, "if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!"

We read here that staying in Jesus' word and knowing the Truth and having the Son, makes one free, free indeed! What truth is Jesus referring to that makes one free? He is speaking about the Word of God concerning the SON! That Word is Truth! If the SON makes you free than you are free indeed! So, the point here that Jesus was making was that knowing the "Law of Moses, The Old Testament, was not the truth that makes one free. If it was, then Jesus would not have put down the challenge of knowing the truth shall make you free because they already knew that. The Truth Jesus was speaking about was "His Word concerning Himself", That's really The Truth, and that Truth, makes one free!

Then sometime later, Jesus proceeds to tell them in John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." NKJV. Next, Jesus says in John 16:12-14, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you." NKJV. This Helper, the Holy Spirit will not glorify himself but will glorify and speak of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will guide us into the all truth. Again, The Holy Spirit's job is not to point us to himself, but to Jesus. You should be seeing a pattern here, Jesus being the Son of God said in John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through Me." NKJV. The Holy Spirit guides and points us to the truth, the truth is Jesus!

Then the Apostle Paul writes, inspired by The Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. [freedom]" NKJV. The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth is the Spirit of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord is Jesus and where the Spirit of Jesus is, there is liberty, freedom! Where Jesus is, there is Freedom!

So, the conclusion is, true freedom, being free indeed can only be experienced by the one who abides or stays in the truth and knows it and is in the presence of the Spirit of the Lord which is Jesus! He who the Son makes free is free indeed. Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Is He living inside of you? If you want Him to come into your life, invite Him, He is waiting. The Bible says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." NKJV.

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July, God Bless you and your families, Much Love,

Peter Larocque
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